

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

"The Seed of an Idea"

Written by

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RECORD DRAFT: 7-Jan-19

EXT. ELINOR'S SCHOOL -- DAY, DAY 1

Title Card: "The Seed Of An Idea"

It's a crisp, clear morning in the forest. We see Elinor's school, buried among trees and surrounded by flowers and buzzing insects. We close in on a window and into...

INT. ELINOR'S CLASSROOM -- DAY, CONTINUOUS

The room is bright and colorful. ELINOR walks in wearing her backpack, smiling and hopping. She is excited for her day at school! As she walks, she passes other kids coming in and putting their things in their cubbyholes:

Elinor passes Ashley Bear, who undoes her hook and loop (i.e. "Velcro") boot straps. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor's ears perk up at that as she walks by.

| | | |
|---|--------|---|
| 1 | ELINOR | 1 |
| | Hmmm. | |

Next, Medhi Fox opens his backpack. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor's eyebrows jump.

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| 2 | ELINOR (CONT'D) | 2 |
| | Hmm? | |

Javier Moose undoes the velcro fasteners on his jacket. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor takes notice.

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| 3 | ELINOR (CONT'D) | 3 |
| | Hmm... | |

Elinor arrives at her cubby. Her friends OLIVE and ARI come to greet her.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | OLIVE | 4 |
| | Hi, Elinor! You look extra curious today! | |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 5 | ELINOR | 5 |
| | Oh, hi, Olive! Hi, Ari! | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 6 | ARI | 6 |
| | Are you CURIOUS to see something cool? Check THIS out! | |

Ari holds out his hand. On his wrist is an oversized kid's watch.

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 7 | ARI (CONT'D) | 7 |
| | I have a new watch! | |

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 8 | ELINOR | 8 |
| | Ooohh... | |
| 9 | OLIVE | 9 |
| | (Smiling) He's been showing it to everyone this morning. | |
| 10 | ARI | 10 |
| | My parents got it for me. They said it's to help me stay on track. Watch this! | |
| | Ari presses a button on the watch. | |
| 11 | WATCH ALARM | 11 |
| | Time to go to school! | |
| | Eat your vegetables! | |
| | Put your pants on! | |
| | Elinor and Olive look at each other. | |
| 12 | ARI | 12 |
| | Heh, sometimes I forget. | |
| | The kids giggle. | |
| 13 | ARI (CONT'D) | 13 |
| | Want to see my favorite part? | |
| | Look at the watch strap! | |
| | Ari opens and closes the hook and loop strap on his watch a few times. <i>Skrrrrrtch</i> . Elinor's eyes open wide. | |
| 14 | ELINOR | 14 |
| | Oooohhh... | |
| | At that moment, MS. MOLE, their teacher, calls them to order. | |
| 15 | MS. MOLE | 15 |
| | Ok, class, time to find our places! | |
| | All the kids move to the rug at the center of the room. Ms. Mole stands next to her desk. | |
| 16 | CLASS | 16 |
| | Good morning, Ms. Mole! | |
| 17 | MS. MOLE | 17 |
| | Good morning! Now, where is my book? | |

She feels around on her desk and picks up a carrot.

18 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 18
Ah ha! Is this it?

19 CLASS (ALL TOGETHER) 19
No! / That's not it! / (Ari:)
That's a carrot!

Ms. Mole gives a sly smile and sniffs the carrot.

20 MS. MOLE 20
Oops! You're right!

She hunts around on the desk with her hands, picks up an eraser.

21 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 21
Ok. This MUST be it.

22 CLASS 22
No! / That's an eraser! / (Olive:
That's not a book!)

Ms. Mole smiles again, sniffs it. She puts it down and picks up a book.

23 MS. MOLE 23
Is THIS it?!

24 CLASS 24
Yes! (Laughing)

25 MS. MOLE 25
Noooooow we are ready for the
lesson!

Ms. Mole opens the book. There's a picture of a spiky seed on it.

26 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 26
Today we are going to learn
about... (dramatically) Nature's
Ideas!

All of the kids are paying rapt attention, except for Elinor, who is looking at the watch on Ari's wrist. She moves to take a closer look.

27 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 27
Nature has solved a lot of
different kinds of problems and is
full of useful ideas. For example--

Ms. Mole is interrupted by a sudden *Skrrrrrtch*. She turns from the picture book to look, and the noise stops. She scans the group of kids. Elinor is smiling innocently. After a beat, Ms. Mole turns back to her book. Elinor reaches for the watch again.

28 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 28
Ahem. Nature is full of useful
ideas, like --

She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrrtch-Skrrrrrtch*. She turns from the book to look, and the sound stops again. The kids look at each other. Everyone is puzzled!

29 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 29
(Slowly returning to book)
Nature is full of ideas, like --

She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrrtch-Skrrrrrtch*. This time she turns around very quickly. We see Elinor caught in the act of pulling on Ari's watch strap.

30 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 30
Elinor...

31 ELINOR 31
Ms. Mole!! This strap is sooo cool!

Elinor stands up and holds up Ari's watch with Ari still attached to it.

32 ELINOR (CONT'D) 32
You can open it and close it and
open it and close it...

She opens and closes the strap several times.

33 ELINOR (CONT'D) 33
Most of it is soft and fuzzy,
except for this scratchy patch...

She opens it and points to the patch of "hook" fabric on one end (the rest of the strap is made of loop fabric).

34 ELINOR (CONT'D) 34
...which sticks to the fuzzy part
of the strap. The two parts stick
together like tape, but they aren't
sticky!

Elinor puts her finger on the patch and shows it doesn't stick.

35 CLASS 35
Oooohhh...

36 ELINOR 36
That is SO interesting!
And look! There's a patch like that
on all sorts of things!

Elinor drags Ari over to the cubby area.

37 ELINOR (CONT'D) 37
It keeps Ashley's boots closed...

She pulls the watch strap (and Ari) down to Ashley's boots
and points out the hook patch on the boot straps.

38 ELINOR (CONT'D) 38
It keeps Mehdi's backpack closed...

She drags Ari over to Mehdi's backpack and opens and closes
the backpack twice, pointing out the hook patch on the flap.

39 ELINOR (CONT'D) 39
And it's on Javier's coat!

Elinor holds the watch up to the coat's hook patch. Olive
joins them.

40 OLIVE 40
You're right, it's on everything!

Olive undoes the watch band and a relieved Ari hits the
floor.

41 ELINOR 41
But I never thought about it
before. I wonder how it works?

Ms. Mole opens her mouth to say something, but at that
moment, Ari's watch alarm beeps.

42 WATCH ALARM 42
Time for recess! Time for recess!

43 MS. MOLE 43
Ah, yes. Thank you, Ari's watch!
It's time for recess!

All the kids cheer and stampede out the door, except for
Elinor, Olive and Ari. They turn off the alarm and walk over
to the rug to look at the strap closely. Elinor fixates on
the patch of hook fabric on one end.

They pause and think.

64 ARI 64
 (Eyeing the playground) We could
 try some things outside?

65 ELINOR 65
Yeah, good idea!

66 ARI 66
We're going outside!

The kids go out the door. Elinor looks excited about their project and gives a hop or two. Olive is twirling her trunk and looking over her notes.

EXT. THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. -- DAY, CONTINUOUS

There are kids playing on the swings and slides as Elinor, Olive and Ari come outside.

67 ELINOR 67
Ooh, let's try that tree!

Elinor takes the watch and bounces over to a tree. She tries to stick the hook patch to the tree.

68 ELINOR (CONT'D) 68

Tree: no.

Olive records it.

69 ELINOR (CONT'D) 69
 Hmm, we need MORE OBSERVATIONS!

A ditty begins to play and the kids sing a song:

70 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 70

(Singing)

We want to solve the mystery,
Of how this sticks so stickily.
We're going to try it here...!
And there...!
And everywhere!
When I have a question I don't
know,
I look for answers high and low
We're going to try the rocks...!
This log...!
And even this frog!
Into the woods and under the
treeeeeees,
We follow our curiosity!!

As they sing, they begin in the playground and wander among the bushes and trees nearby. They are dancing (and hopping and flying) a bit and trying the strap's hook patch on various things: bushes (no), acorns (no), rocks (no), etc.

EXT. CLEARING -- DAY

They emerge from some bushes and come to a small clearing, gathering around Olive's list. Ari has some twigs and seed burrs stuck to his clothes and fur.

71 OLIVE 71
Ok, the scratchy patch sticks to
sweaters and rugs, but not anything
else!

72 ELINOR 72
 Hmm, I don't see how it works. Do
 you guys?

The kids shake their heads.

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--|----|
| 73 | ARI | | 73 |
| | It's such a sticky mystery! | | |

They think for a moment: Elinor's ears cross or wiggle; Olive scratches her head with the crayon. Ari notices the seed burrs stuck to him and tries to shake them off.

74 ARI (CONT'D) 74

Ack!

He goes through a few shakes and contortions, but the seed burrs don't come off. He gets a little alarmed.

[illegible]

Elinor goes over and grabs one of the seed burrs and pulls it off. It makes a small *skrrrrrtch* sound. Ari sighs in relief.

76 ARI (CONT'D) 76

Thanks!

Elinor sticks it back on Ari and pulls it again. *Skrrrtch*. Her eyes go wide.

77 Hey! ARI (CONT'D) 77

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| 78 | ELINOR | 78 |
| | Look, this seed sticks to Ari's sweater just like the scratchy patch! It even makes the same sound! | |
| | I wonder... | |
| | Elinor takes the seed and sticks it to the fuzzy side of the strap (<i>Skrrrtch</i>). | |
| 79 | ARI | 79 |
| | Whoa... | |
| 80 | OLIVE | 80 |
| | The seed also sticks to the fuzzy part of the strap! | |
| 81 | ELINOR | 81 |
| | (Examining a seed burr) What is this little seed? | |
| | The kids crowd together and look really closely at the seed. They see that the seed has lots of little hooks on it. | |
| 82 | ARI | 82 |
| | Look at all those little hooks. | |
| | They follow the seed closely as they stick it to Ari's sweater. They see the little hooks catch on the loops in the fabric, and when they pull it, the hooks let go, making a small <i>skrrrtch</i> sound. | |
| 83 | ELINOR | 83 |
| | It sticks because the little hooks grab the fuzziness of the sweater. Hmmm... | |
| | They look really closely now at the patch of "hooks" fabric on the watch strap. | |
| 84 | ARI | 84 |
| | The patch on the strap also has little hooks! | |
| 85 | OLIVE | 85 |
| | They're even tinier. I hadn't seen them before! | |
| 86 | ELINOR | 86 |
| | THAT's how it works! It's the tiny little hooks that make the patch sticky. | |

They open and close the strap several times. They look closer and we see the hooks grabbing the loops in action.

87 Ohhh... ARI 87

88 ELINOR 88
(Examining the fuzzy side
of the strap)
But the hooks need something fuzzy
with little loops to grab on to.

Olive checks her list.

89

OLIVE

89

Yeah! That's why the patch only sticks to these fuzzy things (points to the items on the check mark side), and not to these other things that aren't fuzzy. These things don't have little loops for the hooks to grab!

The kids smile at each other, sharing a feeling of excitement at having solved the puzzle.

90 ARI 90
We solved the mystery!

91 ELINOR 91
Let's tell Ms. Mole!

Elinor dashes off back to the playground, followed by Olive and then Ari, who flaps to catch up.

EXT. PLAYGROUND -- DAY

Elinor swooshes down the slide and jumps on the swing, landing first. Ari flies over and Olive comes up last, puffing slightly. They find Ms. Mole sitting by the playground.

ELINOR

Ms. Mole, we figured it out!

93 OLIVE 93
It's the little hooks on the
patch...

ARI

That make the strap stick together!

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 95 | ELINOR | 95 |
| | But the hooks only stick to things that are fuzzy and have little loops in them. | |
| Elinor makes a loop with two fingers and a hook with one finger from the other paw and demonstrates. | | |
| 96 | ELINOR (CONT'D) | 96 |
| | The hooks on the patch grab loops on the fuzzy part and stick together! And then... <i>skrrrrtch!</i> | |
| Ms. Mole nods sagely and her nose twitches. | | |
| 97 | MS. MOLE | 97 |
| | My, I smell some clever little scientists. I knew you would figure it out! | |
| Elinor holds up one of the seeds. | | |
| 98 | ELINOR | 98 |
| | We figured it out from looking at this spiky seed, like the one you were... uh, <i>trying</i> (she looks sheepish) to teach us about before. | |
| Elinor sticks the seed to Ari. | | |
| 99 | MS. MOLE | 99 |
| | That is interesting! The strap and the seed work the same way. Why do you think that is? | |
| Ari gasps in realization. | | |
| 100 | ARI | 100 |
| | Did the seed COPY the idea from the watch strap? | |
| Ms. Mole smiles. | | |
| 101 | OLIVE | 101 |
| | I think that would be silly... (Unsure) Wouldn't it? | |
| 102 | ELINOR | 102 |
| | I bet the idea for the strap came FROM the seeds! | |
| 103 | MS. MOLE | 103 |
| | That's right! | |

Ms. Mole pulls out the same book she was trying to show the kids earlier.

104 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 104
I was just about to tell you the whole story...

Ms. Mole opens the book to the page we saw earlier, which shows the seed with lots of hooks. She turns the page to an illustration of Georges de Mistral (the inventor of hook and loop) as a dog character walking in the forest; the picture becomes animated as she explains.

105 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 105
Georges de Mistral was an inventor who lived a long time ago. He loved to go for walks in the woods, but always came back with some seeds stuck to his fur and clothes.

The dog notices the seed burrs sticking to him.

106 ELINOR 106
It's the same seeds we found!

107 MS. MOLE 107
That's right! The seed has little hooks so it can grab on to things and grow in different places.

As Ms. Mole talks, we see Ari notice a butterfly and follow it into the bushes.

108 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 108
(Back to the book) George wondered if he could use the same idea and make the hooks and loops himself. That way, he could get OTHER things to stick together.

The dog is in a workshop making the first hook-and-loop prototype. Later, he tests it on a new coat. Skkkkrtch!

109 ELINOR 109
Wow. Nature really DOES have some good ideas, Ms. Mole. I'm glad we went to explore in it!

(Singing)
Into the woods and under the trees,
We can follow our curiosity!

Ms. Mole smiles and winks.

110 MS. MOLE 110
 Well, I think it's great that you
 didn't give up and figured it out
 yourselves!

At that moment, Ari comes from the bushes, completely covered
 in seed burrs from head to toe. Olive is startled.

111 OLIVE 111
 Ah!

112 ARI 112
 Yeah, you could say we really STUCK
 with it!

They all laugh.

END.